

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. By this response, claims 1, 6 and 9 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative during the interview conducted on March 20, 2007. During the interview the differences between the Yuasa reference and the claim language was discussed. The Examiner suggested clarifying the claim language with regard to the monitoring modules by reciting "plurality of monitoring modules" within the claim and also clarifying the term "stylized way." Applicants have amended the independent claims 1, 6 and 9 in view of the discussion during the interview to overcome the cited reference.

Prior Art Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yuasa et al. (US 4,679,077). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yuasa discloses a visual image sensor system comprising a number of cameras each connected to a camera selector switch. The camera selector switch selects image data from one of the camera and transmits this image data to various analyzing devices which analyze the data. The analyzing devices can analyze data from several different cameras and thus is centralized in order to analyze data of the various cameras.

In contrast, the monitoring system of the present invention includes a plurality of monitoring modules and a monitoring station. In the present invention, the analysis of the image data is performed within each of the monitoring modules and not at a centralized analyzing device as in the Yuasa's system.

Further, in the present invention, if a human alarm object is detected, data representing only the extracted area of the image in a stylized way (the stylized way representing a recognizable human shape) is transmitted from the monitoring module to the monitoring station. This allows the operator of the monitoring station to be able to quickly determine the human alarm objects representing a human.

Applicants respectfully submit that Yuasa does not teach analysis of the image data within each of the monitoring modules and instead relies upon a centralized analyzing device used in conjunction with multiple cameras. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Yuasa fails to teach extracting data in a "stylized way" which represents a recognizable human shape and only transmitting this data to a monitoring station.

Therefore, as addressed in the interview with the Examiner and in the above comments, Yuasa fails to teach recording, extracting, classifying for each of the plurality of monitoring modules as recited in claims 1, 6 and 9. Further, Yuasa fails to teach transmitting data representing only extracted area of the image in a stylized way, the stylized way representing a recognizable human shape, and transmitting data representing the extracted area to a monitoring station if the object is classified as a human alarm object.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 6 and 9 are distinguishable over the cited art.

Dependent claims 2-5, 7-8 and 10-11 are also distinguishable over the cited art for the above reasons as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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